

The regular session meeting of the Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers and Speech-Language Pathologists was held March 18, 2021, Via Teleconference. Regular Session Board meeting came to order at 4:08 p.m.

#### **Staff Present**

Candace G. Robinson, Executive Director  
Oluremi Dean, Discipline & Compliance Office, Deputy  
Bethan Haaga, AAG Board Counsel  
Zoann Mouzone, Administrative Specialist III  
Monica Wright, Office Secretary III  
Lillian Reese, Legasrtative Coordinator

#### **Visitors**

Senator Malcolm Augustine  
Kathleen Howland, SLP and Music Therapists  
Maria Faye  
Lynn Williams, President ASHA  
CJ Shiloh, Music Therapists

#### **Present Members**

Dr. Jennifer Mertes, Chair  
Dr. Tinita Kearney, SLP  
Mr. Kim Keller  
Mr. John Rouse, CON  
Mr. James Brisbane, HAD  
Dr. Barbara McLendon, AUD  
Ellen Stein, CON  
Mr. Richard Brisbane, HAD  
Ms. Jill Silverman, SLP  
Dr. Carrie Nieman, MD  
Ms. Carolyn Stine, SLP

#### **Absent Members**

Dr. Stacey Samuel-Cole, Vice-Chair  
Dr. Tam Nguyen, MD

#### **Agenda Review and Approval**

Dr. Tinita Kearney made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Carolyn Stine seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

#### **Regulatory Review**

**Senator Malcolm Augustine-** spoke on the Music Therapy bill and how he felt Music Therapists would be a positive addition to our Board.

**Kathleen Howland-** Gave a brief summary on how music therapy has helped people.

**CJ Shiloh-**Gave three examples on how Music Therapists have collaborated with certain professions such as Speech-Language Pathologists.

**Lynn Williams-**Stated that ASHA does not oppose licensure, but they do oppose Music Therapists being allowed to treat individuals with communication disorders.

#### **Chair Report-Dr. Jennifer Mertes**

Stated the responsibility of our Board is to make sure that Maryland consumers are safe.

#### **Board Counsel Report-NONE**

**Minutes Review and Approval –for February 18, 2021 and March1, 2021.**

Ms. Jill Silverman made motion to approve minutes. Mr. James Sciabarrasi seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous

**Executive Director’s Report - Dr. Candace G. Robinson**

Dr. Robinson Informed the Board as a reminder to file their financial disclosure. The Hearing Aid practical exam will be given on April 15, 2021. According to the Governor’s Executive Order, all non-renewed licenses will expire after June 30, 2021. After June 30, 2021, licensees will have to apply for a reinstatement to reactive their license.

Legislative Coordinator Ms. Reese provided an update on bills affecting our Board.

1. **HB161/ SB379** – Audiology Assistant bill has passed the House and the Senate
2. **HB233/SB82-** Music Therapists bill has passed the house and has crossed over to the opposite chamber
3. **HB288/SB183-** ASLP-IC has passed the house and has crossed over to the opposite chamber
4. **HB600/SB523-**cleanup has not move out of the committee as of yet.
5. **SB952-** Health Occupations – Internship and Residency Training Requirements Waiver for Former Service Members Injured in Combat - Mr. John Rouse made a motion to send a letter of opposition for senate bill 952. Ms. Carolyn Stine seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**Deputy Director Report – Mrs. Oluremi Dean**

Ms. Dean reported that the online renewal system will open on April 1, 2021 for AUD, SLP and SLPA licensees who expire May 31, 2021. Also an email blast reminder will be sent to all licensees due to expire. Audit notices are currently being sent to licensees randomly selected for audit.

**Budget Report - Dr. Candace Robinson**

Dr. Robinson reported the January ending balance was 216, 508.35. The February ending balance was 152,685.84.

**License Coordinator Update – Ms. Zoann Mouzone**

Ms. Mouzone reported a total of 18 applicants for March. The total active SLP licensee is 4,388, total active SLP-LL licensee is 286, the total active SLPA licensee is 77 the total active SLP-LL Assistant licensee is 12. The total active AUD licensee is 532. The total active HAD licensee is 115 and the total active HAD-LL is 27. The total renewal for 2020 there was 234 AUD and 1,085 SLP and 41 SLPA. For the non-renewed licensee there was 29 AUD and 282 SLP and 22 SLPA .The total for HAD 2021 renewal is 95 and non- renewed is 20. The total applications for Board approval is 37.

**Review and Approval of Licenses**

Dr. Barbara McLendon made a motion to approve all applications listed on the Board Approval List. Ms. Ellen Stein seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**Review for Committee List of CEU’S for Board Approval**

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Dr. Tinita Kearney made a motion to approve all CEU'S listed on the CEU Approval List. Mr. Kim Keller seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**Correspondence & F.Y.I**

Dr. Mertes informed the board that Dr. Robinson had resigned from her position as ED and thanked her for her service.

**Next Board Meeting – April 15, 2021**

**Adjournment**

Mr. Kim Keller made a motion to adjourn the regular session of the Board meeting. Ms. Ellen Stein seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The regular session meeting ended at 5:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Mertes, AuD.  
Board Chair